

**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday September 10, 2014
Crown Roller Mill**

Unapproved Minutes

Commissioners Present: David Zaffrann, Jeffrey Strand, Debra Behrens, Eric Gustafson, Doron Clark

Staff Present: David Rubedor, Howard Blin

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

1. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approve Minutes of May 14, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting

It was noted that there was not a quorum present of members who attended the May 14th meeting and approval of the minutes was continued.

3. Community Innovation Fund

Blin described the history of the Community Innovation Fund (CIF). It was proposed in the 2008 Framework for the Future report, the Committee of the Whole drafted guidelines for the program in late 2013, there were a series of nine listening sessions on the program with neighborhood organizations in early 2014 and the draft guidelines were out for a 60 day review over the summer.

Blin and Rubedor reported that it was suggested that City Council approval of the guidelines and solicitation for proposals for the program wait until January 2015 after the budget review has been completed.

The comments received during the review period were summarized and are included in a staff report.

Commission members discussed the guidelines and had the following comments:

- The Program Description section should be expanded.
- The requirement that only projects submitted by a collaboration of two or more neighborhoods or a neighborhood and a community organizations would be eligible. Concerns were raised that this might lead to artificial partnerships which would only be formed to secure funding. It was suggested that the Eligible Projects section should be revised to allow a single neighborhood to be eligible to apply if the proposed project meets a key goal of the City.
- The programs aims of innovation and collaboration should be decoupled.

- Site visits should be scheduled with finalists for grants to better understand the proposals and to assess their capacity to successfully complete the project.
- A weighted scoring system for the applications should be developed and included in the RFP to give applicants a better understanding of the types of projects being sought.

It was agreed that the NCEC should form a standing committee, modeled after the One Minneapolis Fund Committee, to review funding proposals and make recommendations to the full Commission.

Motion by Zaffrann, Seconded by Strand to recommend to the NCEC that a standing committee be formed to review applications for the Community Innovation Fund and make recommendations to the full Commission. This committee should have a minimum of four members and a maximum of six members. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Equity Steering Committee/Blueprint for Equitable Engagement

Rubedor described the history of the Blueprint and the role of the Equity Steering Committee. He summarized the decisions made by the Steering Committee. A report on the Blueprint will be presented to the Council in January.

Committee members discussed how the report should be developed. It was agreed that the next few meetings of the Committee of the Whole should be devoted almost exclusively to work on the Blueprint.

It was also agreed that at this point the Steering Committee should be disbanded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Submitted by Howard Blin